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Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 02341 220012Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-02 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 /133 W
----------005917 230207Z /65
R 210935Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5190
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG EMIN OVIP (SAADI, MOUSSA) MO
SUBJECT: VISIT OF GOM MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES MOUSSA SAADI

REF STATE 94270

1. SAADI CALLED AMBASSADOR APRIL 17 TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR WHAT HE TERMED EXTRAORDINARY AND UNUSUALLY PROFITABLE TWO WEEK VISIT TO US. OF ALL HIS MANY OFFICIAL TRAVELS OVERSEAS, SAADI, SAID, NONE COULD APPROACH US VISIT IN TERMS OF SUBSTANTIVE VALUE, INCREASED PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS AND SHEER PERSONAL SATISFACTION. AT HUMAN LEVEL,

MOST STRIKING FEATURE WAS UNBELIEVABLE DEGREE OF CORDIALITY AND OPENNESS WHICH GROUP HAD ENCOUNTERED THROUGHOUT TRIP. ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY WAS FACT THAT AMERICANS EVERYWHERE SHARED THEIR SUCCESSES AS WELL AS FAILURES OPENLY WITH VISITORS. ADMINISTRATIVELY, VISIT WAS EXTREMELY WELL PROGRAMMED IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, GIVING SAADI AND ASSOCIATES RARE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET TOP GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY EXPERTS OF GREATEST INTEREST TO MOROCCO'S ENERGY AND MINING SECTORS. SAADI ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE WRITING PERSONALLY TO ALL CONCERNED TO EXPRESS HIS THANKS AND APPRECIATION.

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2. TOUCHING BRIEFLY ON SUBSTANTIVE IMPRESSIONS, SAADI REMARKED THAT VISIT CONFIRMED HIS EARLIER BELIEF THAT THERE WERE QUOTE ENORMOUS POSSIBILITIES UNQUOTE FOR INCREASING US/MOROCCAN COOPERATION DRAMATIC-

ALLY IN ENERGY AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT. THIS JUDGMENT WOULD FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN HIS TRIP REPORT TO KING, IN WHICH HE ALSO PLANNED TO URGE VISITS OF OTHER HIGH GOM OFFICIALS TO US AS THE BEST WAY

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TO LAUNCH BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS OF RESPONSIBILITY.

3. SAADI CONCLUDED THAT WITH PROPER FOLLOW-THROUGH -- WHICH HE PROMISED

TO CARRY OUT AT GOM END -- POSITIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RESULTS COULD DEFINITELY COME OF TRIP, WHICH IN ANY CASE SHOULD ONLY BE SEEN AS FORERUNNER TO MANY MORE AT TECHNICAL LEVEL. AMBASSADOR AND SAADI AGREED TO MEET AND GO OVER SPECIFICS OF VISIT IN DUE COURSE.

4. COMMENT: SAADI'S REACTIONS ARE WELCOME DEVELOPMENT GIVEN WELL KNOWN DIFFICULTIES ENCUMBERING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN OTHER FIELDS. IF FOR NO OTHER REASON WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO ACT ON AS MANY REFTEL ISSUES AS CAN USEFULLY BE MOVED FORWARD AT PRESENT TIME. MOST READILY MANAGEABLE PROJECT AT THIS END WOULD APPEAR TO BE NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT, DRAFT MODEL OF WHICH WE WILL SUBMIT FOR GOM REACTION AS SOON AS PROMISED FRENCH TEXT RECEIVED. CONCLUSION OF SUCH AGREEMENT WILL PERMIT GENERAL ATOMIC DEAL TO GO FORWARD (NOW FULLY WORKED OUT AT COMMERCIAL LEVEL) INVOLVING SALE OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR TO MOROCCO.

5. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHETHER SAADI RAISED QUESTION OF OFFICIAL BILATERAL COOPERATION ON OIL SHALE DEVELOPMENT OF WHICH HE SPOKE AT LENGTH TO US PRIOR TO VISIT, AND OUTLINE OF WHICH WE REPORTED IN RABAT A-10. IF SO, DOES PROPOSED VISIT OF US OIL SHALE TECHNOLOGY TEAM REPORTED REFTEL CONSTITUTE US RESPONSE?
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINING, ENERGY, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RABAT02341
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780173-0170
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780430/aaaaazku.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7c10efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 94270
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2891266
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF GOM MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES MOUSSA SAADI
TAGS: ENRG, EMIN, OVIP, MO, (SAADI, MOUSSA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c10efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014